

# Ravers of the world RUNITE!

■ 'Local Elements' hosts a transcendental dance party featuring nine DJs, colorful costumes

By Yael Menahem  
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“All you need to have a rave is some techno music, about 500 kids and [just] as many hits of acid.”

That rather coarse description — uttered by DJ Frankie Knuckles and found on a raver-friendly Web site — is characteristic of what many think the scene is.

Although drugs can be a major part of raves, other aspects such as the music, the dancing and an overall sense of unity among hundreds of strangers is another desired goal ravers seek to reach.

Friday night at the EMU Ballroom, student-run radio station KWVA and the Cultural Forum are sponsoring an all-night rave with hopes of bringing those people together. Although they are taking steps to ensure the safety of all participants, Chris Spinelli, who works with the Cultural Forum, said organizers can't prevent peoples' use of drugs prior to entering the rave.

Although this rave will try to imitate the standards of regular raves by featuring nine DJs, it ends at 1 a.m., when many raves usually begin.

Steven Sawada, promotions director of KWVA and one of the DJs slated to perform at the rave, said he and the other spinners have to keep “an awareness of how the crowd is reacting to our music and how we're going to set forth a DJ set that will keep them engaged, [while] at the same time, catering to what we like to play.”

Raves were born in England during the late 1980s and the scene was introduced to American partygoers in the early 1990s.

The music genre is techno, a popular sound in gay clubs at the time. Since then, many extensions of techno have been introduced to ravers, and following the trends can become confusing.

Techno music was first taken to a heavier extreme called house, which then jumped to another level, acid house. Soon jungle music was introduced and that spilled over into trance, which led to acid trance, hard trance and trance-house.

Sawada, who will go by the name DJ Max Power for this rave, said he will play progressive house, trance

and jungle. He said that “jungle transcends a lot of prejudicial barriers because you get a lot of kids who are into jungle and hip-hop.”

The music, of course, is the essential part of any successful rave. “Spinning” is how DJs keep the flow going from one song to the next without stopping to change to a new vinyl. There has to be a continuous sound between songs, and the DJ who keeps people dancing without missing a beat is a master of the trade.

Ravers have become a culture within themselves, as well.

There are fashion trends that many ravers follow to keep their look fresh, glittery and most of all it seems, young. At any given rave, teenage girls can be seen sucking on pacifiers or lollipops.

They might carry a stuffed animal, or more recently, a Teletubby, in the form of a backpack or large key chain dangling from pants pockets.

Baggy pants with small T-shirts featuring cartoon characters or any reference to mainstream television shows or movies are welcomed. Glitter is key on the eyes and on the body.

Funky hairdos are also a must. Pigtails are always an option, either putting one's hair in numerous ponytails or wrapping them up into several buns — Bjork-style or similar to Carrie Fisher in “Star Wars;” take your pick.

The trendy styles don't stop there.

Since rave rooms are so dark, many of the dancers — throwing their hands in the air — want to stand out in the crowded room. So, amidst the sweat flying back and forth, glow-in-the-dark items can be found all over a dancer's body.

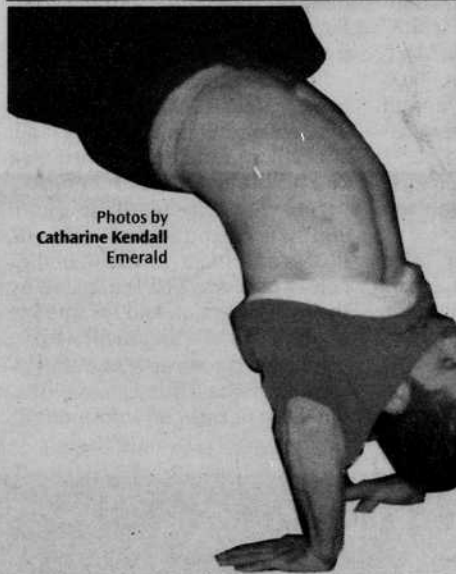
Anything goes, from glowing green necklaces, bracelets or even a little plastic box with a red light that ravers put in their mouth so they're visible at all times.

Getting dressed for a rave is only half the battle, since most of the time finding a rave is the trickiest part. To avoid police breaking up the once-illegal raves, secret maps, treasure hunts and even exchanging an egg for the directions to a rave have all become norms of the scene.

Most people attend raves in search of a good time through heart-stopping music. Many see it as a time to get away from daily life and everyday problems.

All in all, it's a chance to act young through the chosen clothes and accessories, then reach back to the days when many had no worries and could play all day.

“Local Elements,” the University rave, begins Friday at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. Students with ID get in for \$4, while the general public pays \$5. Proceeds go to White Bird Clinic.



Photos by  
Catharine Kendall  
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Ravers at the WOW Hall  
take over the dance floor,  
doing their thing, last  
Thursday night.

